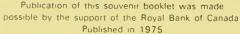
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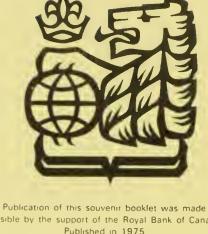
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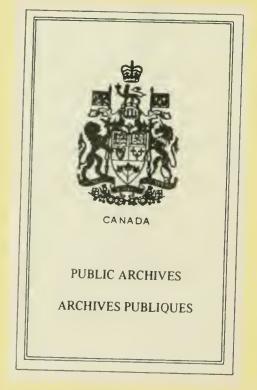
1915~1940



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Introduction

This is not just a commemorative booklet. It is also a book of records, containing the most impressive statistics ever established by any basketball team, and likely, any team in any sport.

If this were the history of a professional team, made up of the best players money could buy, it would be outstanding. Or if this were the history of a team from a large university, drawing the cream of amateur players from an entire region, it would be still outstanding. But this is the history of a team made up, over its 25-year history, of female graduates from one specific high school (except for two players) in a relatively small Canadian city.

It is amazing!

There is some basis for fear that the accomplishments of this team, which existed from 1915 to 1940, might in time become forgotten.

For instance, in a recent year, a U.S. university basketball team was hailed as a record-breaker, and its coach named Sportsman of the Year, when it won its 61st consecutive game.

But the Edmonton Commercial Grads won 147 consecutive games in local, national and world-wide competition. Then, after losing one game, they came back with a 78game winning spree. These are records that still stand, and might continue to stand for all time.

Another "record" claimed in a widely circulated book is for the most consecutive foul shots made — 56, scored by a highly paid professional. But Margaret MacBurney of the Grads scored 61 consecutive foul shots during a half-time shooting exhibition at a game in 1931.

An occasional team these days wins all its games in a season. But not only did the Grads win all their games in several seasons; they won 96.2% of 522 games they played in their 25-year history. And they played against the best challengers available, including, on nine occasions, men's teams (seven of which they defeated).

In the annals of sport, there are teams that have been consistent winners of league, national or international titles, sometimes stretching a record of championships over eight or ten years. But once the Grads won a trophy they stubbornly hung on to it, sometimes for decades:

 In provincial play, they won the championship in their first year of existence (1915) and continued to win it 23 of the 24 times they competed for it;

- In the Western Canadian championships, the Grads won all 21 games they played from 1926 to 1940:
- In Canadian championships, the Grads never lost a series, from commencement of title play in 1922 to the team's disbanding in 1940. They won 29 of 31 games played;
- In Canada-United States competition, the Grads won the Underwood International Trophy every year from inception of the series in 1923, to 1940, when they were presented with the trophy as a permanent possession.
- In world-wide competition, the Grads attended four Olympics, although women's basketball was not officially an Olympic sport. They won all 27 exhibition games played against top European challengers.

So to your list of great sports teams — the Maple Leafs and Canadiens of hockey, Notre Dame of university football, the Yankees of baseball — add the Edmonton Commercial Grads of women's basketball. But put their name at the top, for their record has not been approached by the others.

To ensure that this record does not perish, this booklet has been prepared.



The Finest Basketball Team That Ever Stepped On A Floor



On a day in 1914 in the thensmall city of Edmonton, two men flipped a coin. The outcome of the flip was to mark the beginning of the most spectacular story in Canadian sports history, for the loser was to become the most successful athletic coach of all time

The men who flipped the coin were J. Percy Page, at 25 a newly appointed teacher at McDougall Commercial High School, and another teacher, Ernest E. Hyde Neither man felt capable of conducting a physical education program for the 60 girls in the school, so they had chosen this way of deciding who was to do it.

Mr Page was the loser of the toss so he set about teaching the game of basketball, which he had played rather ordinarily, he admitted, in his youth and which he had taught earlier to other students in New Brunswick and Ontario

Being a thorough man, he bought books about developing

skills in the game and passed along his knowledge to the girls.

Success came early. Despite having only an outdoor cinder court to play on, the McDougall Commercial Girls won every game in their first year, becoming holders of the Richardson Trophy for supremacy among Edmonton schoolgirls teams

The next year, in the spring of 1915 McDougall Commercial Girls went boldly into a provincial championship series against the older Camrose Normal School team. They emerged victorious

At the end of that season, the team members decided they would like to continue playing the game, even though they were graduating from high school. So they formed the Commercial Graduates' Basketball Team on June 15, 1915—and thus was born the name which was to be carried through the next 25 years to world-wide fame as the most successful team ever to play a sport.

Mr. Page stayed with his team throughout its history. For over 20 years he missed not a single practice or game, and in the entire 25 years of play missed only three games—once when he skipped a curling rink to provincial supremacy, and twice during election campaigns while running (successfully) for political office.

Another story of devotion can be told about the players. Many had long records of service. For example, the first captain, Winnie Martin, stayed on from 1915 to 1924 except for one year when she attended university in Eastern Canada.

The team retained its close connection with McDougall Commercial School, holding its practices there. Also, they continued to look to the school for new team members who came through a "farm system" developed by Mr. Page. Girls in the school played the game on a junior team, went on to a senior team and then to the



1922 Left to Right Daisy Johnson, J P Page, Nellie Perry, Eleanor Mountilield, Dorothy Johnson, Winnie Martin and Connie Smith.



1923 Left to Right Eleanor Mountifield, Connie Smith, Abbie Kennedy, Dorothy Johnson, Nellie Perry, Winnie Martin, Elizabeth Elrick and Mary Dunn.

Gradettes, a team made up of players with the ability to be a Grad, but having to wait their turn for an opening. Since only 38 played on the Grads over a 25-year period, there sometimes was a long wait to step up.

One of the first problems faced by the Grads was finding suitable competition for regular season games. Being ex-students, they were barred from school leagues. They found the solution by playing against men's teams in their practice sessions.

The system obviously worked. From 1915 to 1922, the Grads played 147 official games and lost not one—as noted elsewhere, the still unbroken record in any sport.

The Grads did have a losing streak at one time. In 1933, they lost three games in a row, all to the same team, the Durant, Oklahoma, Cardinals. There was reason — the games were played under girls' rules, to which the Grads were unaccustomed. But that was their longest and only losing streak, and three years later they had their revenge by defeating the team.

Throughout their history, the Grads' name remained on the

Provincial Championship trophy except for one year — 1921. That year, the Grads won against the University of Alberta 17-13, but the game was protested because one of the Grads' players was not a graduate, but still a student at McDougall Commercial High. In other words, the protest was made because the team used a student too young, rather than too old, for the team. A new game was played, which the University won 29-23.

In 1922, a team in London, Ontario, the Shamrocks, claimed the Canadian championship without considering the possibility of competition in the West. The Grads protested, so the Shamrocks invited them to travel to Ontario to support their complaint.

Up to this time, the Grads had operated at a loss, with income of seldom more than \$25 from each game. Faced with travel expenses, they had to scramble for money, despite a guarantee of \$600 from the London team. At last, with each team member chipping in \$25, they had enough money to send only six players (no substitutes) by day coach, with packed box lunches, to Ontario. But it was

worth the sacrifice, as they won both games in the two-game total-point series, the cumulative score being 49-29. They played two more games in Ontario, making four games in four days, all wins.

The Grads returned to Edmonton triumphant. A band and crowd of fans awaited them at the CNR station as they de-trained; the school board treated them to a banquet and gave them gold medals. But somehow their success didn't get through to the average Edmontonian. Offering the public a chance to watch the new Canadian champions in an exhibition game seemed a logical way of helping to make up the deficit incurred o the trip. But only 200 fans showed up, and the net return was just \$20.

It should be pointed out that at no time did the Grads have a regular sponsor. Each of the women held a full-time job, forcing them to practise in the evening. They took their vacations during the time the team was scheduled to travel. At the same time, many other teams, particularly in the U.S.A., were enjoying semi-professional status — team members holding jobs that provid-



1930 Back Row, L. to R. Margaret Kenney, Elsie Bennie, J. P. Page, Gladys Fry and Mildred McCormack. Front Row: Doris Neale, Mae Brown, Margaret McBurney and Babe Belanger.



1932 Back Row, L. to R. Helen Stone, Gladys Fry, J. P. Page, Noel McDonald and Edith Stone. Front Row: Mabel Munton, Evelyn Coulson, Doris Neale, Margaret McBurney, Babe Belanger and Jessie Innis

ed time off for practices and games.

But hardship was what the Grads thrived on. In 1923, they entered the realm of international sport with an Edmonton promoter's offer to bring the Cleveland, Ohio, Favourite-Knits to Edmonton for the first international ladies' basketball game, the Underwood Challenge Trophy being the reward.

That first game, June 12, 1923, presented Edmontonians for a moment with an almost comical spectacle The Favourite-Knits came onto the court in their short-shorts and jerseys boldly emblazoned, "World's Champs". Then the Grads came out in the uniforms they had become accustomed to -- loosefitting sailors' middles, pleated bloomers made of three yards of British serge, long wool stockings and black-and-gold headbands. Local fans wondered if their heroines could come through under their great encumbrance of clothing. But skill was what decided the contest, the Grads winning 19-13 and again the next night, 34-20

Edmontonians were jubilant over their international champions Medals and gifts went to the team

members, and Mr Page was presented with a Chevrolet coupe by local merchants. He was pleased with the gift but, it being his first car, he had to learn how to drive before he could make use of it.

From that time the Grads never relinquished the trophy, finally having it given to them as a permanent possession at their 25th anniversary celebration, just before disbanding in 1940. They played 120 games in the Underwood competition, winning 114.

With dominance over the sport in North America established, the Grads began looking overseas for more competition. They attempted to have basketball sanctioned as an official women's sport at the Olympics, but their request was refused However, they were invited to play exhibition games coincident with the Olympics, beginning in 1924 in Paris.

This presented a new challenge in finances. To raise funds, the team issued invitations to other teams, some from far distant points, to come to Edmonton for exhibition matches. Despite large guarantees needed to bring these teams, a total of \$11,000 was rais-

ed, enough to take eight players, their coach and Mrs. Page as chaperone to the Continent.

The Paris Olympics began what proved to be a total triumph in world-wide play for the Grads. Playing again at Amsterdam in 1928, Los Angeles in 1932 and Berlin in 1936, the team did not suffer a single loss in 27 games. Average score for the games they played reinforced their apparent superiority: 69 to 11. In one game, against Lille, France, the Grads scored 61, their opponents only 1. In another game, against London, the Grads scored 100, London, 2.

As undisputed queens of ładies' basketball, the Grads had to look hard for competition worthy of them. On nine occasions they played men's teams in exhibitions, and beat seven of them. They travelled 125,000 miles in search of the strongest teams the world had to offer, winning over their history 502 games and losing only 20.

After a couple of decades of such success, the Grads began to suffer a fate that overtakes many phenomena of sport. Their fans' interest began to flag. A Grads vic-



Helen McIntosh 1922-1924



Francis Gordon 1936-1937



1937 Back Row, L. to R.: Mabel Munton, Noel McDonald, J. P. Page, Winnie Gallen and Betty Ross. Front Row: Etta Dann, Helen Northup, Babe Belanger and Sophie Brown.

tory was no longer news, only a Grads defeat. The team that at one time (May 5, 1930) had packed an arena with 6,792 fans — a record for Canadian basketball — began playing to small crowds.

Coincidentally, the life of coach Percy Page took a new turn, with his successful entry into political life in 1940 as an independent MLA. His time became more precious as he undertook this new career in addition to his principalship at McDougall Commercial High.

And the Second World War was upon the country, placing restrictions on travel for non-essential reasons. Additionally, the Air Force took over the Edmonton Arena, where the Grads met their opponents.

So on June 5, 1940 the Grads played their last game, against a team from Chicago. The arena was jammed with 6,200 fans, back to pay their last respects to their idols. In the crowd were all but three of the former team members, plus, of course, every sports writer worthy of the name. The Grads didn't let them down, winning 62-52. The official end was postponed to Oc-

tober 14, 1940, when, at a meeting, it was decided that the team members and ex-members would continue to participate in the game as sponsors of two new girls' teams.

Since that date, the Grads have held reunions every five years. Only three ex-teammates have passed on from the 38 who played with the team from 1922 to the end. (Prior to 1922, records weren't kept to the exact makeup of each team.)

But the world has not ceased to heap honours on the team. Noel MacDonald Robertson, captain of the Grads during the 1930's, who was voted Canada's top woman athlete in 1938, was admitted to the Canadian Hall of Fame in August, 1971.

On April 18, 1973, two months after the death of Mr. Page, the Grads were admitted to Edmonton's Hall of Fame, with 29 exteam members present, some members returning from half-way around the world. In September of the same year, Mrs. Page officially opened the Percy Page Centre for Recreation Associations, providing an Edmonton office for 40 provin-

cial sports associations. In April, 1974, the Grads were admitted to the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame.

What made the Grads great? Obviously, a great coach, but what were his winning techniques? Observers claim it was solid teamwork that won. No individual stars were encouraged. Evidence comes from the record, which shows that Etta Dann Soderberg, now of High River, Alberta, who played guard, a position from which basket-scoring is not usually expected, was the second highest all-time scorer on the team.

Which was the greatest Grads team? Mr. Page, before his death, answered, "I wouldn't be prepared to say which was the greatest, nor to name the greatest player to wear a Grad uniform. All Grad teams gave the best they had."

And the Grads' best was the game's best, according to no less an authority than Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game. He said, "In my opinion the Grads have the finest basketball team that ever stepped out on a floor."

It's a sensational story, not likely to be repeated in the annals of sport.



1938 Back Row, L. to R.: Muriel Daniel, Jean Williamson, J. P. Page, Noel McDonald, and Mabel Munton. Front Row: Sophie Brown, Etta Dann and Helen Northup



1939-40 Back Row, L. to R. Mabel Munton, Jean Williamson, J. P. Page, Winnie Gallen and Kay MacRitchie. Front Row: Betty Bawden, Helen Northup, Etta Dann and Sophie Brown.



ALBERTA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In 1914 the Harold A Wilson Company, of Toronto donated a shield for competition among girls' teams in Alberta. The first game for this shield was played between McDougall Commercial High School. Edmonton, and Camrose Normal School. The following year the student team of Commercial High became known as the Commercial "Grads". In 1924 the Wilson Trophy was replaced by a cup donated by Miss Edna Bakewell, of the University of Alberta, and all subsequent games have been played under the jurisdiction of the Alberta Basketball Association. The following is a complete record of all games played for these two trophies.

1914—McDougall Commercial	12	Camrose Normal	7	1929—Commercial Grads	43	Calgary Centrals	13
1915—Commercial Grads	13	Camrose Normal	2	Commercial Grads	46	Calgary Centrals	10
1916—Commercial Grads	32	Wetaskiwin High	14	1930—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	56 31	Calgary Centrals Calgary Centrals	14 15
1917—Retained by Grads, no ch	nallenge	filed		1931—Commercial Grads	104	Calgary Centrals	24
1918—Commercial Grads	17	Stettler High	7	Commercial Grads	38	Calgary Centrals	27
1919—Commercial Grads	21	University	18	1932—Commercial Grads	63	Gradettes	29
1920—Commercial Grads	24	University	19	Commercial Grads	80	Gradettes	39
1921—Commercial Grads	17	University	13	1933—Commercial Grads	87	Gradettes	43
Commercial Grads	23	University	29 (a)	Commercial Grads	78	Gradettes	35
1922—Commercial Grads	56	Barons High	14	1934—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	35 99	Calgary Beavers Calgary Beavers	22 21
1923—Commercial Grads	22	Barons High	2		59	Calgary Beavers	27
1924—Commercial Grads	27	University	13	1935—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	48	Calgary Beavers	26
Commercial Grads	21	University	15 (b)	1936—Gradettes	31	Calgary Wittichens	25 (e)
1925—Commercial Grads	12	Varsconas	11	Gradettes	34	Calgary Wittichens	37
Commercial Grads	18	Varsconas	22 (c)	1937—Commercial Grads	74	Calgary Beavers	27
Commercial Grads	21	Varsconas	11	Commercial Grads	58	Calgary Beavers	31
1926—Commercial Grads	32	Gradettes	10	1938—Commercial Grads	52	Calgary Buffaloes	32
Commercial Grads	47	Gradettes	23	Commercial Grads	56	Calgary Buffaloes	13
1927—Commercial Grads	22	Calgary Centrals	10	1939—Edmonton Gradettes	42	Calgary Buffaloes	44
Commercial Grads	47	Calgary Centrals	12	Edmonton Gradettes	32	Calgary Buffaloes	48 (f)
1928—Commercial Grads	37	Calgary Centrals	9 (d)	1940—Edmonton Gradettes	40	Calgary Buffaloes	47
				Edmonton Gradettes	58	Calgary Buffaloes	29 (g)

Summary: Grads have won 23 out of a possible 24 provincial titles, and 36 out of 38 games played. Average point score in provincial games, 44 to 19

- (a) In 1921 the University protested the playing of Connie Smith on the ground that she was still a student of Commercial High, and not eligible to play as a "Grad". The game was replayed, with Connie a spectator, and the University won.
- (b) Regular two-game series were instituted in 1924
- (c) The Grads and Varsconas played a best-two-in-three series in 1925, the Grads winning the first and third games
- (d) Only one game was played in 1928, the Calgary Centrals deciding they were not strong enough to justify a second game.
- (e) In 1936 the Grads did not compete by reason of going to the Olympic Games at Berlin; however, the Gradettes stepped into the breach and retained the title for the Grad organization
- (f) (g) The Grads did not compete in either of these series, having been granted a bye into the Canadian finals

WESTERN CANADIAN FINALS



1926—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad		-	Vancouver "Canucks" Vancouver "Canucks"	13 12	(Vancouver)
1927—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad	-		Vancouver ''Canucks'' Vancouver ''Canucks''	19 18	(Edmonton)
1928—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad		_	University of B C. University of B C.	24 21	(Edmonton)
1929—Commercial Grad	ls 59	9 \	Vancouver "Meralomas"	20	(Edmonton)*
1930—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad			University of B C University of B C.	20 14	(Vancouver)
1931—No series played					
1932—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad			Vancouver "Witches" Vancouver "Witches"	45 56	(Edmonton)°
1933—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad			Vancouver "Province" Vancouver "Province"	58 42	(Edmonton)
1934—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad		-	Vancouver "Province" Vancouver "Province"	27 30	(Vancouver)
1935—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad		_	Vancouver "Province" Vancouver "Province"	24 42	(Edmonton)
1936—No series played.	Grads attende	ed Olymp	oic Games		
1937—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad			Vancouver "Spencers" Vancouver "Spencers"	15 26	(Vancouver)
1938—Commercial Grad Commercial Grad	-	-	Victoria "Superiors" Victoria "Superiors"	34 19	(Edmonton)

1939-1940—The Grads did not compete, having been granted a bye into the Canadian finals. In 1939 the Calgary "Buffaloes" defeated Vancouver and then went on to defeat Winnipeg. In 1940, Vancouver defeated the Gradettes (40-26, 46-31, 31-42, 48-38) for the western title, and were then defeated by the Grads for the Canadian title. For scores, see next section.

Summary: The Grads have won all 21 games played. Average point score, 52 to 38

^{*}Only one game was played in 1929

^{*} In this series, 299 points were scored, the highest ever made by the Grads and their opponents

UNDERWOOD INTERNATIONAL TROPHY GAMES

In 1923, in order to encourage basketball among girls' teams, and particularly teams in Canada and the United States, the Underwood Typewriter Company donated the "Underwood Trophy" for competition on a challenge basis. In order to challenge, a team had to hold the championship of its own province or state. Some of the greatest games ever played have featured the struggle for this trophy which never left the hands of the Grads since it was first won by them in their memorable series against the Cleveland "Favorite-Knits" in 1923.

1923 — Commercial Grads	19 34 41 26 20 25 35 27	Cleveland "Favorite-Knits" Cleveland "Favorite-Knits" Toronto "Maple Leafs" Toronto "Maple Leafs" Chicago "Uptown Brownies" Chicago "Uptown Brownies" Warren "National Lamps" Warren "National Lamps"	13 20 11 13 17 20 8 13
1924—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	44 40 22 40 33 33 26 39	Chicago "Lakeviews" Chicago "Lakeviews" Cleveland "Favorite-Knits" Cleveland "Favorite-Knits" Warren Elks Warren Elks Chicago "Uptown Brownies" Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	10 11 7 19 11 20 13 8
1925—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	29 22 51 33 24 21 35 34	Chicago "Lakeviews" Chicago "Lakeviews" Minneapolis "Ascensions" Minneapolis "Ascensions" Guthrie "Red Birds" Chicago "Tri-Chis" Chicago "Tri-Chis"	14 13 9 3 14 5 12 8
1926—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	19 24 32 45 31 34	St Louis "Curlees" St Louis "Curlees" Guthrie "Red Birds" Guthrie "Red Birds" Detroit "Centrals" Detroit "Centrals"	14 8 9 9 30 27
1927—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	33 33 25	St Louis "Undertakers" St. Louis "Undertakers" Cleveland "Newman-Sterns"	13 14 10

Commercial Grads	28	Cleveland "Newman-Sterns"	22
Commercial Grads	27	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	19
Commercial Grads	39	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	8
Commercial Grads	69	Minneapolis "Bankers"	5
Commercial Grads	57	Minneapolis "Bankers"	7
1928—Commercial Grads	26	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	12
Commercial Grads	44	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	26
1929—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	56 37 33 43 56 29 50 27	Seattle "Gerald's Cafe" Seattle "Gerald's Cafe" Chicago "Uptown Brownies" Chicago "Uptown Brownies" Detroit "Centrals" Cleveland "Blepp-Knits" Cleveland "Blepp-Knits"	24 16 11 14 14 17 31 13
1930—Commercial Grads	56	Seattle "Ferry Lines"	17
Commercial Grads	58	Seattle "Ferry Lines"	38
Commercial Grads	24	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	34°
Commercial Grads	40	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	13
1931—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	80 109 62 84 82 113	Chicago "F P Cardinals" Chicago "F P Cardinals" Leavittsburg "Aces" Leavittsburg "Aces" Pocatello "Indians" Pocatello "Indians"	33 24 51 41 20 22
1932—Commercial Grads	44	Chicago "Red Devils"	34
Commercial Grads	49	Chicago "Red Devils"	25
1933—Commercial Grads	74	Chicago "Red Devils" Chicago "Red Devils" Chicago "Rickett's Cafe" Chicago "Rickett's Cafe" Chicago "Rickett's Cafe"	35
Commercial Grads	60		48
Commercial Grads	75		35
Commercial Grads	54		29
Commercial Grads	54		3B





1934—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads 1935—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	100 46 60 49 56 54	Chicago "Spencer Coals" Chicago "Spencer Coals" Des Moines "A I B " Des Moines "A I B " Des Moines "A I B " Chicago "Usherettes"	39 37 28 41 28 36	1938— Commercial Grads	40 42 40 61 53 36 61	Chicago "All-Stars" Chicago "All-Stars" Chicago "All-Stars" Cleveland "Fisher Foods" Cleveland "Fisher Foods" Cleveland "Fisher Foods" Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	33 26 31 38 24 44
Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	42 55 51 43	Chicago "Usherettes" St. Louis "Shaw Stephens" St. Louis "Shaw Stephens" St. Louis "Shaw Stephens"	27 20 24 24	Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	75 79 68 41 43	Canton "Engravers" Canton "Engravers" Canton "Engravers" Wichita "Thurstons" Wichita "Thurstons"	25 52 32 27 22
1936—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	54 43 40 37 38 41	Des Moines "A I B " Des Moines "A I B " El Dorado "Lion Oilers" El Dorado "Lion Oilers" El Dorado "Lion Oilers" El Dorado "Lion Oilers"	40 37 44 35 29 24	Commercial Grads 1939— Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	35 27 50 37 61 39	Wichita "Thurstons" St. Louis "Legionnaires" St. Louis "Legionnaires" St. Louis "Legionnaires" St. Louis "Legionnaires" Cleveland "Nokolds" Cleveland "Nokolds"	29 24 28 34 25 32 26
1937—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	50 42 48 53 4B 46 31 38 35 27	Cleveland "Fisher Foods" Cleveland "Fisher Foods" Cleveland "Fisher Foods" Wichita "Thurstons" Wichita "Thurstons" Tulsa "Stenographers" Tulsa "Stenographers" Tulsa "Stenographers" Tulsa "Stenographers" Tulsa "Stenographers"	24 17 26 18 12 25 23 29 46	Commercial Grads	43 41 46 33 61 49 61 47 45 44	Cleveland "Nokolds" Chicago "Queen Annes" Chicago "Queen Annes" Chicago "Queen Annes" Des Moines "A I B" Des Moines "A I B" Des Moines "A I B" Wichita "Thurstons" Wichita "Thurstons"	34 29 34 35 20 24 34 26 30 24

1940—No games were played for the Underwood Trophy. Two exhibition series were played against Wichita and Chicago. For scores see section "American Exhibition Games". The trophy itself was retired from competition, and was given by the donors to the Grads as a tribute to their remarkable record.

Summary: Out of 120 games played for the Underwood Trophy the Grads won 114 and lost six, average point score, 45 to 24

^{*}Games lost. In the series against the Taylor-Trunks (May 3rd and 5th, 1930) the Grads lost the first game by a score of 34 to 24. This loss broke a consecutive string of 78 wins. At the second game, which the Grads won by a score of 40 to 13, all records for attendance at any sporting event in Edmonton were broken when 6.792 spectators jammed their way into the arena.

^{*}In 1933 the Durant "Cardinals" defeated the Grads in a series played to determine which team should represent North America at the Olympic Games. The Grads had to wait three years before meeting the same team again. On this occasion (May 28th to June 3rd, 1936) the Grads won three games of the best-of-five series.





1924 — Paris Back Row, L. to R.: Eleanor Mountifield, Connie Smith, J. P. Page, Abbie Scott and Daisy Johnson. Front Row: Nellie Perry, Mary Dunn, Winnie Martin and Dorothy Johnson



1928 — Amsterdam Back Row. L. to R. Kate MacCrae, Elsie Bennie, J. P. Page and Gladys Fry Front Row: Mae Brown, Mildred McCormack, Joan Johnston and Margaret McBurney

Teams



1932 — Los Angeles Back Row, L. to R.: Helen Stone, Gladys Fry, J. P. Page, Elsie Bennie and Edith Stone Front Row: Babe Belanger, Mildred McCormack, Margaret McBurney and Doris Neale.



1936 — Berlin Back Row, L to R. Babe Belanger, Doris Neale, Gladys Fry and J. P Page Front Row: Noel McDonald, Mabel Munton, Sophie Brown and Helen Northup.

OLYMPIC EXHIBITION GAMES

Grad clubs attended four sets of Olympic Games; at Paris in 1924, Amsterdam, 1928, Los Angeles, 1932, and Berlin, 1936. Basketball for girls wasn't an official event on any of these programs, but through the courtesy of the Federation Sportive Feminine Internationale a series of exhibition games was arranged on each occasion of the Grads' visits to Europe, with the following results.

1924 - Commercial Grads	64	Paris	16	1932 Commercial Grads 40 San Francisco Commercial Grads 32 Prince Rupert Commercial Grads 72 Victoria	7
Commercial Grads	65	Paris	12		26°°
Commercial Grads	69	Paris	17		24
Commercial Grads	37	Strasbourg	8°	1936— Commercial Grads 100 London, England	2
Commercial Grads	65	Roubaix	4	Commercial Grads 85 Nice	9
Commercial Grads	61	Lille	1	Commercial Grads 77 Monte Carlo	14
1928 — Commercial Grads	65 46 109 81 68 67 88 87 53	Paris Paris Paris Lyons Milan Luxemburg Rheims Strasbourg Paris	18 14° 20 9 2 6 11 6	Commercial Grads 67 Rome Commercial Grads 25 Milan Commercial Grads 83 Strasbourg Commercial Grads 87 Doual Commercial Grads 87 Lens Commercial Grads 86 Paris	8 8 25 15 10 14***

Summary: Played 27 games won 27 Average point score, 69 to 11

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In 1933 the first official series for the North American championship was held between the Commercial Grads (Canadian champions) and the Durant "Cardinals", winners of the American national tournament, held annually at Wichita, Kansas. Such a series was staged each year. It should be noted that these series differed from those staged for the Underwood Trophy in-asmuch as ONLY national winners may compete for the North American title, while provincial and state winners might compete for the Underwood Trophy.

1933	June 3 Commercial Grads June 5—Commercial Grads June 7—Commercial Grads	52 48 43	Durant "Cardinals" Durant "Cardinals" Durant "Cardinals"	59 83 45
1934	June 9—Commercial Grads	41	Tulsa "Stenographers"	31
	June 11—Commercial Grads	35	Tulsa "Stenographers"	28
	June 13—Commercial Grads	48	Tulsa "Stenographers"	41
1935-	—May 25—Commercial Grads	53	Tulsa "Stenographers"	49
	May 27—Commercial Grads	49	Tulsa "Stenographers"	53
	May 29—Commercial Grads	37	Tulsa "Stenographers"	30
	June 1—Commercial Grads	43	Tulsa "Stenographers"	40
1936-	— April 21 — Commercial Grads	42	Tulsa "Stenographers"	24
	April 23 — Commercial Grads	34	Tulsa "Stenographers"	24
	April 25 — Commercial Grads	33	Tulsa "Stenographers"	40
	April 27 — Commercial Grads	35	Tulsa "Stenographers"	30
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1937 — No series played see below

1938 - No series played see below

1939, 1940 - No series played see below

Summary: In 1937 the American title was won by a team from Little Rock. The team disbanded immediately following the tournament, and did not file a challenge for the N.A. title. Two of the other three teams that played in the semi-finals (Tulsa and Wichita) filed challenges for the Underwood Trophy, the results of these games being shown elsewhere. In 1938 the American title was won by the "Ancos" of Galveston, Texas. They declined to play for the N.A. title on the ground that their girls could not be spared from work.

Out of 14 games played, the Grads won nine and lost five, and won three of the four series. The average point score was 42 to 41

^{*}These teams held the European championship

[&]quot;Young men's team

[&]quot;"This Paris team was the one which unexpectedly defeated the Durant "Cardinals" at the Women's Olympics in London. The same official handled the game in London and the game in Paris.

^{&#}x27;This game was played under girls' rules, with which the Grads were entirely unfamiliar

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first Canadian championship series was held in London in 1922, when the Grads met the London "Shamrocks". One game was played under boys' rules and one under girls' rules which accounts for the unusual scores in this particular series. Since 1923 all games were played under boys' rules which are now official throughout Canada

1922 — Commercial Grads	8	London "Shamrocks"	21	(London)
Commercial Grads	41	London "Shamrocks"	8	
1923 — Commercial Grads	34	London "Shamrocks"	22	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	17	London "Shamrocks"	6	
1924—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	26 23	Toronto Ladies A C Toronto Ladies A C.	6 14	(Edmonton)
1925 Commercial Grads	18	Toronto Y W H A	1	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	17	Toronto Y W H A	10	
1926—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	19 27	Toronto "Lakesides" Toronto "Lakesides"	24 6	(Toronto)
1928—Commercial Grads	64	Halifax University	6	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	83	Halifax University	12	
1929— No championship held				
1930—Commercial Grads	47	Toronto "Lakesides"	17	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	41	Toronto "Lakesides"	27	
1931—No championships held				
1932—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	60 46	Windsor "Alumnae" Windsor "Alumnae"	32 18	(Edmonton)
1933—Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	79 72	Toronto Ladies A C Toronto Ladies A C	24 32	(Edmonton)
1934—Commercial Grads	84	Windsor "Alumnae"	20	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	47	Windsor "Alumnae"	30	
Commercial Grads	57	Windsor "Alumnae"	30	
1935—Commercial Grads	34	Windsor "Alumnae"	30	(Windsor)
Commercial Grads	58	Windsor "Alumnae"	31	
Commercial Grads	44	Windsor "Alumnae"	31	
1936—No championship held, Gra	ds attended Olymp	c Games		
1937—No championships held				
1938—Commercial Grads	72	Toronto "Consols"	28	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	66	Toronto "Consols"	29	
Commercial Grads	58	Toronto "Consuls"	13	
1939—No championships held. Ca	lgarγ "Buffaloes" w	on the Senior "A" title, while t	he Grad	is retained the Senior "Open"
1940—Commercial Grads	48	Vancouver "Westerns"	47	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	59	Vancouver "Westerns"	36	

Summary: The Grads never lost a Canadian championship series. They played 31 games, winning 29 and losing two. The average point score per game was 49 to 21.



CANADIAN EXHIBITION GAMES

In practically every case these games were played on the courts of the Grads' opponents, and usually on trips in connection with the Canadian finals

	nmercial Grads	53 47	Saskatoon Varsity Saskatoon Y W C A	8 15	1934— Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	81 62	Gradettes Gradettes	29 41
Com	nmercial Grads nmercial Grads nmercial Grads	46 19 29	Lethbridge "Aces" St Thomas C I Toronto "All-Stars"	11 16 11	Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	104 63 49 64	Fort William Montreal "Stars" Toronto "All-Stars" Winnipeg "Eagles"	8 6 12 4
1924 — Com	nmercial Grads	28	Calgary "All-Stars"	0	Commercial Grads	81	Gradettes	10
Con Con Con	nmercial Grads nmercial Grads nmercial Grads nmercial Grads nmercial Grads	36 30 34 35 23	Winnipeg "Normals" Victoria "Stars" Kamloops "Stars" Victoria "Stars" Kamloops Boys	21 6 7 8 20	1935— Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	98 107 51 116 90	Gradettes Gradettes Winnipeg "Eagles" Saskatoon "Grads" Regina "All-Stars"	22 13 17 15
	nmercial Grads nmercial Grads	44 40	Winnipeg "Stars" London "Grads"	9 15	Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	107 99	Peterborough "Stars" Ottawa "All-Stars"	6 11
	nmercial Grads	55 61	Port Arthur Hamilton "Stars"	9 14	Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	90 47	Montreal "Stars" Gradettes	20 25
	nmercial Grads	56	Calgary "Chinooks"	9	1937 — Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	58 70	Victoria "Superiors" Calgary "Rep" team	10 27
Con	nmercial Grads nmercial Grads nmercial Grads	23 31 50	Toronto "Parkdales" Toronto "All-Stars" Regina "Torrid Zones"	17 15 12	1939— Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	39 71	Windsor "Alumnae" McMaster University	20 28
1930— Con	nmercial Grads	50	Kelowna "All-Stars"	18	Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	51 65	Niagara Falls Toronto "United"	11 25**
Con	nmercial Grads nmercial Grads	44 123 100	Gradettes Toronto "All-Stars" Toronto "All-Stars"	20 19* 18	Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	87 91	Montreal "Olympics" Queen's University	14 25
1932 — Con Con Con	nmercial Grads nmercial Grads nmercial Grads nmercial Grads	32 72 70 84	Prince Rupert Boys Victoria "Stars" Gradettes Regina "Smeeds" Calgary "Stars"	26 24 28 23	1940— Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads Commercial Grads	73 58 101 65 85 71	Edmonton Gradettes Edmonton Gradettes University of Alberta "Grad Cubs" "Grad Cubs"	37 35 20 5 30 22
1933 — Con	nmercial Grads	84	Calgary Stars	22				

In addition to these games, three games were played against men's teams in 1938, in each case the game being played on the men's floor. The results were as follows. Grads 29, Lethbridge 30, Grads 40, Medicine Hat 28, Grads 34, University of Alberta 38. The totals of these games are included in the general summary towards the end of the book under the caption. "Men's teams"

Summary: The Grads won 59 of the above 61 exhibition games, and, in addition, 35 others against Edmonton teams. Total won, 94 lost two. Average point score per game, 63 to 16

- *In 1931 the Canadian finals were not played. During the fall, the Toronto team that had qualified for the eastern finals played a two-game series with the Grads.
- **This game was played in two parts—the first half against the "British Consols" (32-14) and the second half against the Toronto Ladies A.C. (31-11). The latter team used Stella Walsh, of Cleveland, to bolster their team. She was held scoreless by Etta Dann.

AMERICAN EXHIBITION GAMES

The first 19 games were all played away from home, and had no bearing on any title.

1925—	July 6 Commercial Grads July 12—Commercial Grads July 15—Commercial Grads	47 27 62	Fort Worth, Texas Pasadena California San Francisco, Cal	6 7 2	1930—Aug 6— Commercial Grads Aug 7— Commercial Grads Aug 16— Commercial Grads	33 34 67	Seattle, Wash Seattle, Wash San Fancisco, Cal	22 8 1
1926	April 5 Commercial Grads April 6 Commercial Grads	19 24	Chicago, III Warren, Ohio	17 19	1932—May 16— Commercial Grads Aug 14—Commercial Grads	27 40	Chicago, III San Francisco, Cal	18*** 7
	April 7—Commercial Grads	16 26	Cleveland, Ohio Cleveland, Ohio	23 21	1933 – May 17 — Commercial Grads	67	Chicago, III	53
	April 8—Commercial Grads April 9—Commercial Grads	10	Cleveland Ohio	15°	1939 March 2—Commercial Grads	25	Detroit "V-8's"	13
	April 10 Commercial Grads	8	Cleveland, Ohio	13	1940— May 18 Commercial Grads	52	Wichita "Thurstons"	
1927 -	April 24 — Commercial Grads	29	Norwalk, Conn	26	May 20 Commercial Grads	50	Wichita "Thurstons"	
	April 26 Commercial Grads	22	Detroit, Mich	15	May 22—Commercial Grads	37	Wichita "Thurstons"	
	April 29—Commercial Grads	23	Chicago, III	17	June 1—Commercial Grads June 3—Commercial Grads June 5—Commercial Grads	56 45 62	Chicago 'Q A Aces' Chicago 'Q A Aces' Chicago 'Q A Aces'	34 38† 52

Summary: Games played, 18 won, 15, lost 3 Average point score, 32 to 16

- These games played against Cleveland formed part of a series of ten games which the Grads played on 11 consecutive nights. The first two games were played in Cleveland, and the last two in New York. Transparent plate glass backboards were used in all four games, a tremendous handicap to the Grads who had never used them in any previous game.
- "The smallest score ever recorded by the Grads
- ***This game against Chicago was played in Calgary as a benefit contest staged by the 8 P O Elks
 - * The two series against Wichita and Chicago were played as exhibition series when the American A A U refused to grant travelling permits to these two teams



SUMMARY OF GAMES PLAYED

When the "Grads" were formed in 1915 no one ever dreamed that the team would attain world-wide publicity. It was not until 1922 when the Grads first won the Canadian title that sufficient interest was taken in the team to justify the keeping of permanent records. In the interval from 1915 to 1922, it is believed that the team played 147 games. To this number may be added 375 official games played from 1922 to 1940, a total of 522. Of this number the Grads have won 502 and lost 20, a record believed to be without parallel in sport. The following chart includes a condensed summary of all these games.

Title	Played	Won	Lost	Pts for	Against	Av Score
North American	14	9	5	593	577	42 to 41
Underwood Trophy	120	114	6	5386	2844	45 to 24
Canadian Finals	31	29	2	1402	649	45 to 21
Western Finals	21	21	0	1104	580	52 to 28
Alberta Finals	38	36	2	1629	709	43 to 19
Canadian Exhibition Games	93	93	0	5411	1431	58 to 15
American Exhibition Games	25	22	3	908	522	36 to 21
European Exhibition Games	24	24	0	1722	263	72 to 11
Men's teams	9	7	2	343	295	38 to 33
	375	335	20	18174	7638	48 to 20

GAMES, POINTS AND AVERAGES

Only the names of those players who averaged at least five points a game are included. It should be pointed out that such a table as this is not a fair estimate of a player's ability. Several players were rarely taken out of a line-up, while others played but a few minutes during a game. On the other hand, guards are not expected to compete with forwards or centres in the matter of scoring.

For these reasons, this table is inserted merely because of its factual information, and not in any way as a measurement of the players' relative worth to their teams.

Players	Games	Points	Average
Noel MacDonald	135	1874	138
Margaret MacBurney	164	2079	126
Babe Belanger	136	1441	10 5
Gladys Fry	161	1679	104
Mildred McCormack	94	924	98
Helen Northup	105	1019	9 7
Etta Dann	118	1022	8 6
Connie Smith	76	637	8 3

Players	Games	Points	Average
Jean Williamson	71	544	7 6
Helen Stone	61	412	6 7
Nellie Perry	40	242	6 5
Abbie Scott	30	184	6 1
Mabel Munton	148	852	5 7
Dorothy Johnson	54	293	5 4
Doris Neale	116	607	5 2
Sophie Brown	103	551	5 1





Winnie Martin (Tait) 1915-1924 (First Captain)

Eleanor Mountifield (Vogelsong) 1920-1924 Connie Smith (McIntyre) 1920-1926

Daisy Johnson 1920-1927

Nellie Perry (McIntosh) 1921-1924 Dot Johnson (Sherlock) 1921-1927

Abbie Scott (Kennedy) 1922-1924
Elizabeth Elrick (Murray) Fall 1922-1923

Helen McIntosh (Davidson) Fall 1922-1924

Mary Dunn (Dickson) Fall 1922-January 1926

Elsie Bennie (Robson)

Kate MacCrae (Shore)

Hattie Hopkins

Fall 1924-1933

1925-1927

Marguerite Bailey (Jacobs) 1926-1927 Mildred McCormack (Wilkie) 1926-1932

Margaret McBurney (Vasheresse) 1926-1936 — Longest service to Grads

Gladys Fry (Douglas)

Mae Brown (Webb)

Fall 1927-1936

Fall 1927-1931

Joan Johnston (McEwen)

Fall 1927-1928

Margaret Kinney (Howes)

Fall 1928-1930

Babe Belanger (MacLean)

Spring 1929-1937

 Doris Neale (Chapman)
 Fall 1929-1936

 Edith Stone (Sutton)
 1930-1934

 Helen Stone (Stewart)
 1931-1934

 Evelyn Caulson (Cameron)
 1932-1935

 Jessie Innis (Maloney)
 1932-1935

 Noel McDonald (Robertson)
 1933-1939

 Make al Mayeron (MaClay)
 1934-1940

Mabel Munton (McClay)

Helen Northup (Alexander)

Etta Dann (Soderberg)

Sophie Brown (Drake)

Frances Gordon (Mills)

1934-1940

1935-1940

1936-1937

Winnie Gallen (Reid) 1936-1937/1939-1940

 Jean Williamson (Quilley)
 1937-1940

 Babe Daniel (Lickoch)
 1937-1939

 Betty Ross (Bellamy)
 1937-1939

 Kay MacRitchie (MacBeth)
 1939-1940

 Betty Bawden (Bowen)
 1939-1940

Some Of The Grads Reunions



Presentation at Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame, April 18, 1973



1965 reunion during Edmonton's Klondike Days; celebrating 50th Birthday of the Edmonton Grads.



Official Opening, September 15, 1973. Back Row, L. to R.: Lieut. Governor Grant MacEwan and Ernie Jamison, MLA. Front Row: Gladys Fry Douglas, Winnie Gallen Reid, Abbie Scott Kennedy, Betty Bawden Bowen, Helen Northup Alexander, Betty Ross Bellamy, Francis Gordon Mills, Mrs. J. P. Page, Babe Daniel Lichock, Mary Dunn Dickson, Daisy Johnson, Mae Brown Webb, Babe Belanger Maclean, Edith Stone Sutton, and Doris Neale Chapman.



1926 Team Touring Cleveland, Ohio. Back Row, L. to R. George MacIntosh of the Edmonton Journal, Daisy Johnson, Elsie Bennie, Hattie Hopkins, Kate MacCrae and J. P. Page. Front Row: Connie Smith, Margaret MacBurney, Mildred McCormack, Margeurite Bailey, Mrs. J. Michaels (chaperone), and Daisy Johnson.

DR. J. PERCY PAGE

1887 - 1973



How do you take the measure of a man? Through his achievements? . . Through the honors bestowed on him? . . . Through what others think of him?

It matters little by what yardstick you measure the late J. Percy Page. He was a great man . . . an inspiration to all who came in contact with him.

Through the years he showed his tremendous dedication and resolve in everything he did, be it his basketball coaching, his later political career, his academic duties or his ultimate appointment as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor.

Among the many great honors bestowed upon him was his appointment to the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and to the Alberta Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, as well as Dr. Naismith's Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

To the women throughout the years who played for the Edmonton Grads, Mr. Page was a man who lived up to his principles and commanded the admiration and respect of all players.

Perhaps his contribution to life was best summed up by the Rev Doctor A. G. S. Edworthy who, in delivering the eulogy at Dr. Page's funeral, said he was a man "standing as if it were on tiptoe . . . the better to see what life is really about".



Mr. Page had a unique personality, which commanded absolute respect. He made clear his wish that "Grads" at all times be ladies first and basketball players second.

Mr. Page also had an almost uncanny ability over 25 years to fill vacated positions on his team with players who "fitted" into his organization so well that the successful course of the Grads remained constant. This fact is borne out today: 34 years after the last team disbanded, we are still a closely knit group of friends.

We feel deeply honoured that we were part of an era that produced such a man and will be forever grateful that each of us played a part in the wonderful legend he created.

We would be remiss if we did not remember, and express our sincere gratitude to our many loyal fans, without whose support and goodwill the team's success would not have been possible.

Notably: Wm. Tait. Coach of the Gradettes

Mr. and Mrs. John Michaels

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Brown

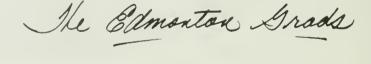
Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Muttart

Mrs. Maude Page:

This record would not be complete without a word about "Our first lady" — Mrs. J. P. Page. For her patience, understanding and many sacrifices in time, energy and concern over a quarter of a century . . . Our Thanks.

As our chaperone, advisor and friend ... Our love and gratitude.

The Edmonton "Grads"





Donation of trophies and memorabilia to the Alberta Provincial Museum, 1970.

DATE DUE DATE DE RETOUR JUL 2 5 1977

LOWE-MARTIN No. 1137

